

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 22-29 and claims 8, 12-14, 17 and 18 define patentable subject matter. Appropriate amendment has been made to the claims previously objected to so each recited claim is now believed to be in proper form for allowance.

Request to Withdraw Premature Final Rejection

With regard to the claims that stand rejected, the Examiner has cited, for the first time, several new references which are specifically relied upon with regard to several new grounds for rejection, yet the instant Office Action has been made final. Applicant further notes that, contrary to the examiner's assertion in Paragraph 19 of this Office Action, the Applicants' prior amendment did not necessitate the new grounds of rejection or the citation of entirely new references. To the contrary, all of the limitations against which the new references have been cited, and the new grounds of rejections made, appeared in the claims as originally filed in this application.

For example, the Brishka reference has been cited against the limitation in claim 1 that an interference fit be provided between a pin and body of the pass through electrical connector assembly. An interference fit between the body and the pin was expressly and specifically claimed in claim 30 as originally filed. Additionally, claims 21, 22 and 29 expressly claim a press-fit arrangement between the pin and the body for an arrangement wherein corresponding portions of the pin have a diameter that is larger than the diameter of a hole in the body. Accordingly, it cannot be maintained that Applicants' amendment to claim 1 necessitated the citation for the first time of the Brishka reference, or the new

grounds of rejection maintained under Brishka.

Likewise, with regard to claim 6, the Tunn reference has been cited for the first time against the snap latch limitation in claim 6. However, the snap latch limitation in claim 6 has remained unchanged in that claim since the application was originally filed. Accordingly, no amendment to claim 6 necessitated the citation, for the first time in this final Office Action, of the reference Tunn or the new grounds for rejection thereunder.

In all fairness, and as clearly set forth in the MPEP, Applicants must be given at least one opportunity to respond to the references cited against limitations contained within the claims as originally filed. The MPEP, in section 706.07, clearly recites that “the invention as disclosed and claimed should be thoroughly searched in the first action and the references fully applied,” and “[s]witching . . . from one set of references to another by the examiner in rejecting in successive actions claims of substantially the same subject matter, will alike tend to defeat attaining the goal of reaching a clearly defined issue for an early termination, i.e., either an allowance of the application or a final rejection.”

Here, each of the noted references could have and should have been cited in the first office action against the claims as originally filed. This would have given Applicants fair opportunity to respond to the rejections in a non-final Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the finality of this Office Action be withdrawn and this amendment be entered as of right, without Applicants having to formally petition for the same.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Zeigler, Jr.

in view of Brishka. The Zeigler reference has been discussed in the prior Office Action, and as noted above, Brishka has been cited for the first time in the pending Office Action. Brishka discloses a connector having an outer metal body 12 with an insulator 10 disposed in the outer body 12, and a central contact 28 that is pressed into the insulator and has an opening 30 to receive a male contact in force fit relation. At its other end, the central contact 28 includes a reduced diameter pin 31.

Claim 1, as previously amended, defines a pass-through electrical connector assembly that comprises a body, at least one through hole formed in the body and an electrically conductive pin forced into the through hole and retained in the body. The pin has first and second ends each having a recess therein constructed to receive and have permanently attached thereto a separate electrically conductive wire, and an intermediate solid portion between the recesses constructed to separate the wires and provide a fluid tight seal between the wires and the pin.

Neither Zeigler nor Brishka discloses a pass-through electrical connector assembly that has a pin with first and second ends each having a recess and an intermediate solid portion between the recesses. As previously set forth, Zeigler discloses a slotted sleeve 32 which leads to an enlarged diameter sleeve 34 that is immediately adjacent to a center contact receptacle 36. There is no disclosure, teaching or even a suggestion that, even if the slotted sleeve 32 and center contact receptacle 36 are considered to contain recesses, the enlarged diameter sleeve 34 between them is solid. To the contrary, it is expressly set forth as a sleeve which one skilled in the art would understand to be a hollow body, not solid. Further, as clearly shown in FIG. 1, a protruding portion 60 of the coaxial cable center conductor extends well beyond the slotted sleeve 32 and into the sleeve 34, which must include a bore

to receive it. Further, since it is common for the protruded length of the central conductor 60 to vary as the surrounding layers of the coaxial cable are stripped away, it would be undesirable to terminate the bore in the sleeve 34 since doing so would prevent full seating of the coaxial cable 56 in its fitting 40 and in the mating fittings. Accordingly, when the disclosure of Zeigler is read in its entirety and with regard to what it teaches persons of ordinary skill in the art, it is clear that Zeigler teaches directly away from and does not disclose or suggest a solid portion of a pin disposed between recesses in first and second ends of a pin.

Brishka likewise fails to disclose any solid portion between recesses in opposed first and second ends of a pin. Accordingly, no combination of these references can be made that would provide or render this claimed subject matter obvious. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 as previously amended defines patentable subject matter over all of the cited references, whether they are taken alone or in combination.

Claims 12-14

The objection to claims 12-14 is believed to be improper since these claims were previously amended and depend from claim 22 which has been allowed. Accordingly, claims 12-14 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-11, 15, 16 and 19-21

Each of the above-listed claims is ultimately dependent upon claim 1 and defines patentable subject matter for at least the foregoing reasons set forth with regard to claim 1.

Independent Claim 30

Independent claim 30 sets forth a method that, among other things, provides a step of inserting a tip of a pin into a through hole, forcing a barb into and through the through hole, and an intermediate portion into the through hole to provide an interference fit in a body. For at least the reason that neither Zeigler nor Brishka disclose, teach or even suggest the insertion of a barb into and through a through hole, independent 30 defines patentable subject matter over the cited references whether they are considered alone or in combination.

Dependent Claims 31-35

Each of claims 31-35 is dependent upon claim 30 and defines patentable subject matter for at least the foregoing reasons set forth with regard to claim 30.

New Claim 36

New claim 36 is dependent upon claim 1 and defines patentable subject matter for at least those reasons set forth with regard to claim 1. In addition, claim 36 provides that the through hole includes a shoulder and the barb defines a base that overlies and engages the shoulder and has a maximum diameter that is greater than the minimum diameter of the through hole. None of the cited references disclose, teach or even suggest such a construction and arrangement. For at least these additional reasons, claim 36 is believed to be patentable over all of the cited art.

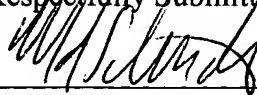
CONCLUSION

So that Applicants may have a fair opportunity to respond to all rejections on record, Applicants respectfully request the finality of the pending Office Action be withdrawn. In the alternative, the final Office Action can be withdrawn since each of previously rejected claims 1-7, 9-11, 15, 16, 19-21 and 30-36 defines patentable subject matter over all of the prior art and is in condition for allowance. Further, claims 8, 12-14, 17 and 18, were previously objected to but are believed to now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all of these claims, in addition to claims 22-29 which have already been allowed, are respectfully requested.

If, after considering this Response, the Examiner believes any of the claims are not in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner initiate a telephone interview with Applicants' undersigned attorney, Matthew J. Schmidt, whose telephone number is (248) 689-3500, so immediate consideration can be given to any further amendment suggested by the Examiner or needed to place all of the claims in condition for allowance.

Applicant encloses a check for payment of the fee for one extra dependent claim and 3 extra independent claims. Any additional fee deemed necessary for this response may to be charged to deposit account no. 50-0852

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew J. Schmidt, Reg. No. 43904
Reising, Ethington, Barnes, Kisselle P.C.
P.O. Box 4390
Troy, Michigan 48099-4390
248-689-3500

August 22, 2005